2026 NEWSLETTER

The A-Money Club

Supporters for Alison Takamiya's Professional Golf Journey

By Alison Takamiya

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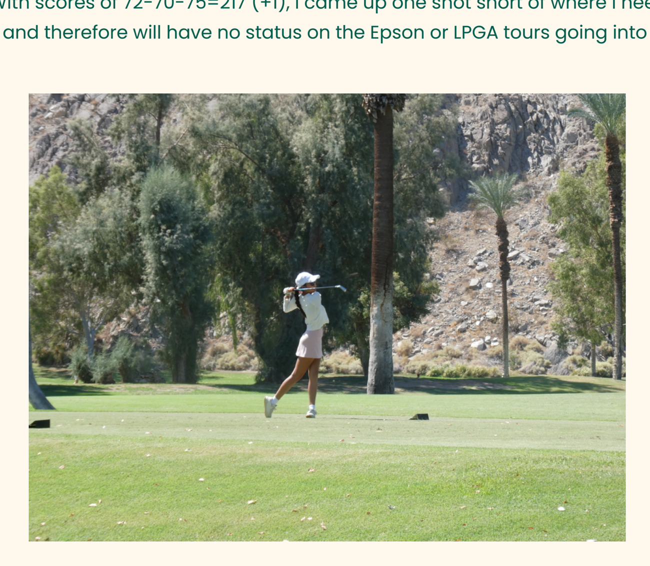
So Close ...

September 2026

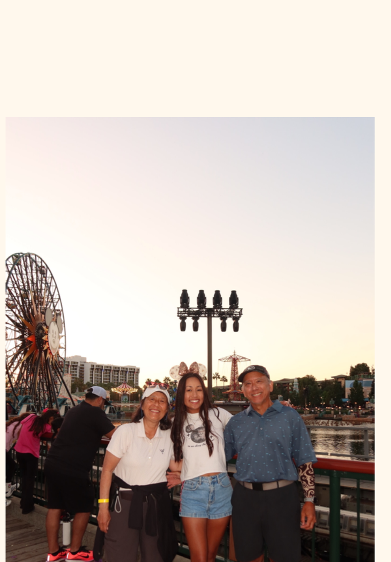
ON THE COURSE

I spent the majority of September in sunny but hot Palm Springs, CA where I played two events at Indian Wells Country Club's *The Classic Course*. The first was "Q-Prep" run by The Cactus Tour, a small mini-tour based primarily in Arizona and California. I finished 9th place shooting 74+71=145 (+1). More importantly, I got valuable experience playing the same course Q-School would be at, in a tournament/pressure-filled environment. Mom and Dad came out for the entire trip and for the week between Q-Prep and Q-School, we stayed in Palm Springs to acclimate to conditions down there (mostly the 100+ degree conditions). I got to practice out at Desert Island Country Club, a semi-private course about 30 minutes from where we stayed, and the PGA West Pete Dye Stadium Course and Jack Nicklaus course, 3 minutes away. A very gracious friend of Coach MJ's let us stay at her home on the PGA West property, where we spent a good majority of our time practicing. **A very special shout out to Mary Pat and George Gregores for allowing us to use your home as our base for two and half weeks!!** Once Q-School rolled around, we headed back to Indian Wells where I advanced to the third and final day of Stage 1, but unfortunately missed the cut to move onto Stage two. With scores of 72-70-75=217 (+1), I came up one shot short of where I needed to be, and therefore will have no status on the Epson or LPGA tours going into 2027.



OFF THE COURSE

THE BEST DAY OFF: On my off-day from practice in the extreme heat, my parents and I drove 2.5 hours to Southern California to reunite with two of my best friends from college, Giselle (Gsul) and Aisha. We got to spend a day at Disneyland! I had never been there before in the fall-time, and it was fun to see all the Halloween decorations throughout the park. My favorite ride was Rise of the Resistance, a newer Star Wars themed attraction that takes the rider on a journey through a battle between the First Order and the Resistance. It was my first time, and as someone who isn't a die-hard Star Wars fan, but appreciates the art of its cinematic universe, my mind was blown leaving the ride. I've been extremely lucky to be able to experience Disneyland throughout my childhood and into my college years. It's just incredible to see how it keeps developing over time. Most importantly, it was fulfilling to spend time with two people who mean so incredibly much to me. Gsul and Aisha have been core friends in my life for only the last six years, yet the extent to which we know one another feels like a lifetime of friendship. We met up with Mom and Dad for lunch and some rides, and it was just the best day off from golf I'd ever had.



INSIDE THE ROPES

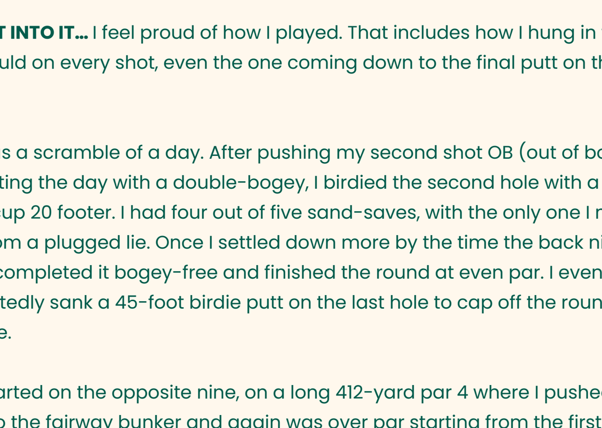
Coming back to Indian Wells CC to play Q-School (two years since the first time I competed here in this qualifier) felt completely different. I felt so much more knowledgeable about my game and more equipped to handle it when I found myself in tricky situations on the course. Also, with this being the third time I've played in Q-School, I didn't feel as much of a "deer in the headlights" in this environment. It also helped that I recognized a lot of the girls from the WAPT Tour, and could say hi, chat briefly, and wish them good luck!

Left to right: Me, Lacey, Ryleigh, & Madelyn

THE COURSE: The Indian Wells Classic Course is a narrow course with small greens with about a third of them being elevated. Pretty much all of them have bunkers only in the front, making the majority of the trouble being short on the approach. There aren't a lot of water hazards, but a lot of the course's defense is the majority of the smaller-than-average greens being extremely sloped/tiered, or having subtle breaks. With the tournament being set up by the LPGA, the pin locations were not easy. Many of them tucked behind bunkers, or close to the edge of the green to lure players into missing the green. It's the kind of course that demands shot-shaping if a player wants to go low. With all that being said, the pressure of the "Q-School environment" is also another added factor because players who do not pass the first stage of Q-School do not earn any status toward the Epson or LPGA season for the following year.

A GLASS HALF-FULL: However, as I learned from last year, passing Stage 1 does not guarantee great Epson status either. I came into the 2026 season near the bottom of the Epson Tour Priority List, meaning I could possibly enter into Epson tournaments later in the year as spaces opened up. As I described in last month's newsletter, my only Epson event this year was in Pendleton, OR... thus passing Stage 1 in 2025 only got me into one event. All this to say, not passing Stage 1 isn't the end of the world, even though for a split-second (well, maybe a bit longer) it felt like it.

THE PRACTICE PLAN: With about a month's worth of time to work on my game post-Pendleton (where my confidence was not nearly in a place I wanted it to be), I worked intently with my practice coach to turn my game around and feel comfortable pulling off any shot – whether it be a stinger off the tee into a gusting wind, a fade to a front-tucked pin location, a punch with a rescue off a questionable lie, or a tight chip off bermuda grass (mind you in Oregon, we have Poa Annua grass which reacts vastly different than bermuda). Intentional is a good word to describe practice leading up to this year of Q-School. I knew exactly how I wanted to practice and how to make the changes in my swing to shot shape. Even though I felt confident with all the prep work I had done, going into the event, my ball-striking was still a minor area of concern for me. I only had a month to embed the changes, which isn't ideally long enough, but I didn't have the luxury of time and had to compete with the game I had.



The practice green at Indian Wells CC

LET'S GET INTO IT... I feel proud of how I played. That includes how I hung in there as best I could on every shot, even the one coming down to the final putt on the last hole.

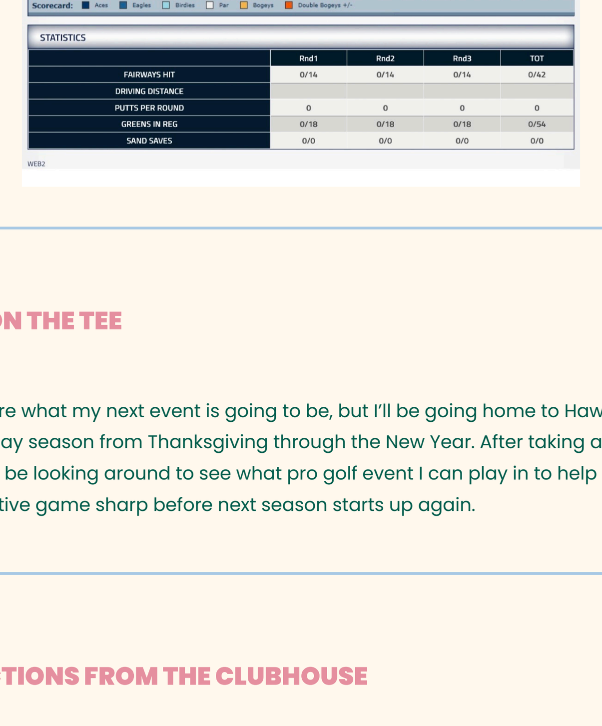
Day 1 was a scramble of a day. After pushing my second shot OB (out of bounds) and starting the day with a double-bogey, I birdied the second hole with a firm center-cup 20 footer. I had four out of five sand-saves, with the only one I missed being from a plugged lie. Once I settled down more by the time the back nine came, I completed it bogey-free and finished the round at even par. I even unexpectedly sank a 45-foot birdie putt on the last hole to cap off the round on a high note.

Day 2 started on the opposite nine, on a long 412-yard par 4 where I pushed my drive into the fairway bunker and again was over par starting from the first hole. I followed it up by again making a birdie putt (this one was 30 feet) on the second hole to get it back to even par quickly. It was smooth sailing from there with two more birdies, and a handful of close birdies that ended up being pars. I even hit the flag on the par-3 fourth hole, with a cut 6-iron (one of the trickiest shots in my arsenal)! Once all the scores were in from day 2, there was a cut line where T65 and ties players would advance to day 3 was set as +3. I had finished at -2 in position T21 and advanced into the final round!

The nerves were definitely there on **Day 3** with the top 40 and ties to advance to Stage 2. The projected cut line moving onto Stage 2 was even par for three days, and even though I stood -2, I knew I had some wiggle room, but still needed to play well to advance. My range session on the final day was also the best out of three days, and I felt the most at ease with my ball-striking/accuracy. The round started well with narrowly missing three good looks at birdie on the first three of four holes. I had a couple bogeys in the first six holes, but followed it up quickly with a birdie on #7 by unexpectedly sinking a 35-footer up the tier. The real rollercoaster came on the back nine with 1 par, 2 birdies, and 4 bogeys in the last 7 holes.

After a couple of bogeys coming from missing the green right on holes 12 and 13, I knew I needed to make something happen with five holes left. I quickly came back with two birdies in a row, the second coming from the par-3 15th hole – where I had scrambled to save par the previous two days. On 16, I had two-putted from 50 feet to keep a good momentum going into the last two holes. #17 is a dog-leg left par-4 with a big wispy tree at the bend of the dog-leg preventing shorter-hitting players from cutting the corner. I would aim right and draw it around the corner, since that is my normal shot shape anyway. Unfortunately, with the same push that would creep in, my ball stayed out right and left me unable to go for the green in regulation, as I had to hit a 165-yard punch-cut under a tree, out of a barren dirt lie, and in between two bunkers protecting the green. I ended up punching it out short of the green, leaving myself with a chip up the hill that I left about 20 feet short. After tapping it in for bogey, I told myself *"Okay one more hole, just hang in there"*.

The last hole is a par-5 at the base of the mountain with <u>everything on the hole sloping right-to-left</u>. With one of the course's few water hazards coming into play along the left side of the green to 75 yards out in the fairway, and a green side bunker 15 feet away from this front right pin's location, it set up for a need to be strategic about where to approach from.. With feeling the pressure on that second shot, I unfortunately pushed it right, where I am now approaching from the opposite side of the fairway, with a lie that is going to make my ball go left. The ball is way above my feet, and while I do my best to offset the draw I know is going to happen, the ball takes off straight toward the water. By some stroke of luck, it stays a foot out of the hazard, leaving me with a fluffed up lie in the rough to a pin with a good amount of green to work with. The combination of the adrenaline + knowing the ball is going to roll out because I can't put spin on from this lie, makes me wary of hitting it too long. Instead I left myself short with an 8-footer, which obviously would've been nice to be closer, but having an uphill putt is more ideal in this situation. As I knew everything sloped right-to-left on this hole, I played my putt right edge of the cup. After going through my normal routine, I stroke the putt with all the confidence I can muster up for one more shot. The ball is tracking toward the right edge, then at the last second, veers off right to miss by a fraction of a centimeter. My heart sank. I had a feeling that was the putt I needed to make. Once I finished up at the scoring table, I left being on top of the cut line. With still about half of the field to come in, my hope was slowly diminishing. Sure enough, a couple hours later, a few players had edged their way above me, thus pushing me and eight others that finished at +1 out of the even-par cut line.



2026 LPGA Q-SERIES: PRE-QUALIFYING STAGE - CALIFORNIA
Indian Wells Country Club, Classic Course - Indian Wells, California

Alison Takamiya

ROUND 3 - INDIAN WELLS COUNTRY CLUB - CLASSIC COURSE

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOT
Par	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	5	4	36	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	4	5	36	72
Rnd 3	4	4	5	3	5	4	3	5	4	37	4	4	5	4	4	2	4	5	6	38	75
Status	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	E	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	E	+1	E	-1	-1	E	+1	+1	+1

Scorecard: Aces Eagles Birdies Par Bogeys Double Bogeys +/-

ROUND 2 - INDIAN WELLS COUNTRY CLUB - CLASSIC COURSE

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOT
Par	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	5	4	36	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	4	5	36	72
Rnd 2	4	4	3	3	5	3	4	5	4	35	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	35	70
Status	-1	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	+1	E	E	E	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2

Scorecard: Aces Eagles Birdies Par Bogeys Double Bogeys +/-

ROUND 1 - INDIAN WELLS COUNTRY CLUB - CLASSIC COURSE

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOT
Par	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	5	4	36	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	4	5	36	72
Rnd 1	6	3	4	3	5	3	5	5	4	38	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	34	72
Status	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+1	+1	+1	+1	E	E	E

Scorecard: Aces Eagles Birdies Par Bogeys Double Bogeys +/-

STATISTICS

	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	TOT
FAIRWAYS HIT	0/14	0/14	0/14	0/42
DRIVING DISTANCE				
PUTTS PER ROUND	0	0	0	0
GREENS IN REG	0/18	0/18	0/18	0/54
SAND SAVES	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0

WEB2

NEXT ON THE TEE

I'm unsure what my next event is going to be, but I'll be going home to Hawaii for the holiday season from Thanksgiving through the New Year. After taking a short break, I'll be looking around to see what pro golf event I can play in to help keep my competitive game sharp before next season starts up again.

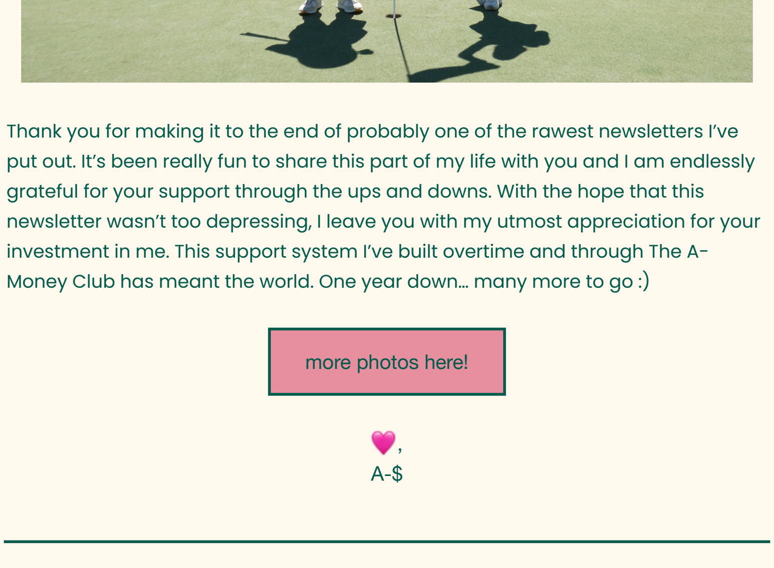
REFLECTIONS FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

Missing the cut is never fun, especially missing the cut by one. I'm not an angry person, but I had never felt so mad at myself for giving it away on the last two holes. Especially after I had made back-to-back birdies battling back a couple holes prior.

My game truthfully feels in one of the best places it's been since the start of my season. While maybe the score doesn't reflect that, I see and feel it in the way I'm learning how to play a course and selecting different shot shapes to give myself the best chance at birdie. I'm understanding that in order to succeed, the type of shots I spent practicing the latter end of my rookie year, are the shots I need to be able to hit with confidence on command.

I spent a good amount of time after the final round letting myself be upset, sad, and frustrated. This isn't the first time this year of knowing I am so close, yet feeling so far. It feels like the carrot keeps getting dangled closer to my face. The reason it hurts so much is because I know how hard I work at it and how much I devote myself toward this dream. Right now, my career is one of the most important things in my life. I want to succeed because I know I have what it takes to make it and more importantly because I want to make a difference in the world – for the better. Luckily, I have some pretty incredible people in my corner who keep encouraging me down this path, even when I question it myself. Their belief in me has only grown over time, and those are the kind of people you need when pursuing a career like this.

Now that some time has passed, my emotions have settled down, and I've been able to have some valuable conversations with trusted people... my desire to make it on the LPGA Tour is stronger than ever. I am in the works of something new. Something I'm not going to share just yet, but will do so when I am ready. All I'll say for now is I'm going to take control of what happened and use everything Q-School (and my first five months of professional golf) has taught me and use it to my advantage.



Thank you for making it to the end of probably one of the rawest newsletters I've put out. It's been really fun to share this part of my life with you and I am endlessly grateful for your support through the ups and downs. With the hope that this newsletter wasn't too depressing, I leave you with my utmost appreciation for your investment in me. This support system I've built overtime and through The A-Money Club has meant the world. One year down... many more to go :)

more photos here!

💗,
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